

# COSTA

# LIGHT

81% less drive!

Volume XI, Number 18



May 10, 1988

I suppose you've been wondering what the "new," scaled-down COSTA is going to look like. You're not alone; so have I. This was not some elaborate, well-thought-out plan; I merely came to terms with my need to restrict the time, effort and money that went into these issues, and announced that I was going to adjust things accordingly. But what I am really going to do is type whatever is affordable, comfortable and timely. When I have finished typing this issue, I will be the first to know exactly what that is. Of course, it may be different next time....

Oh well. Let's start meandering through the issue. Some of you may have noticed (though I doubt it's worth a show of hands) that the Railway Rivals games are gone. That's because they moved out into a little journal all their own, even smaller and less pretentious than this, and are chugging along very nicely, thank you. In fact, the first two games - IL CRESCENDO and PIMMALIONE - have just concluded, with Brian Longataff convincingly winning the former, and Doug Brown topping the lists in the latter. Brian's win was solid but close all the way, but Doug literally trounced three of his four opponents; his win over second-place Paul Gardner wasn't precisely a trounce, but it was at least a definite stomp.

Moving to the home front, my dear wonderful cute little son Eric, age 6, has recently entered a new and very clear developmental stage. I think it's called the Terrible Twos. Eric, like COSTA, seems to be late. And I can tell you this with certainty: If his behavior in the next few weeks matches that of the preceding few, Eric is going to find himself outliving his own butt by several years.

Now, don't get the impression from this that we routinely beat the little brat when he screws up. We are actually pretty gentle parents, given overly perhaps to yelling and threatening, but rarely carrying out those threats (which gives rise to a problem of inconsistency, but that's another matter entirely). We are not fanatics about never ever swatting the kids, but we do operate on the premise that corporal punishment is a last resort, something like the final stage before stringing the little beast up by his toes....

But I will be the first to concede what the so-called 'permissive' analysts have held for years: Physical punishment is almost always a selfish act. It is a parent releasing stress, or maybe even gaining revenge. It is also a 'power trip.' And if one would accept these theses, then it is also abuse and brutality kept in moderation; the difference between a simple spanking and beating the kid with a bat is one of degree, but not of substance.

The antithesis is that moderate corporal punishment used as a release mechanism serves to prevent a build-up of anger that leads to real violence; and in the matter of power, the raising of a child requires that the parent demonstrate and exert power.

So where's the healthy middle ground? I'm sure it differs from family to family, but in general it must be somewhere in the vicinity of getting the child's attention and making a lasting impression without causing any permanent harm. My mother did a fairly good job of this, but I think it was my father whom I most remember for his brilliant success with the balancing act. (In fairness to my mother, she was the day-in, day-out parent, so her efforts have blurred rather more in my memory.) I think I was spanked by my father exactly four times in my life; I may be off by one or two, but not more. And when he did it, it consisted in one good solid thunk on the bottom. Poof! Lesson learned, and that was that.

The only incident I recall in real detail was the time I took a big soup bone and threw it at our puppy, smashing him squarely in the withers. (Thank God I didn't hit the head!) Along came poppa with his extremely rare 'thunk,' and I have not been cruel to an animal since. Now, I'd hate to see a scientific paper appear using this example as a foundation, but I rather suspect it properly illustrates the issue: If you are going to accept spanking as a valid discipline, time it judiciously or the purpose and effect will be lost.

Leading me to some thoughts on capital punishment. (Too bad the destroyed COSTA issue isn't with us any longer; this would have been a perfect extension of Melinda Holley's and Don Del Grande's comments on the subject.) One of my more obscure problems with killing criminals has been that I cannot see any distinction between some lethal and some non-lethal crimes in terms of the 'criminality' or 'guilt' of the defendant. One of the prime arguments against capital punishment is inequity: Black vs. white, rich vs. poor, etc. Well, how about 'effect of the crime on the victim'?

Example: Robber 'A' has 20-20 vision; he walks into a liquor shop, takes the money from the till, and shoots the clerk straight through the heart. Robber 'B' has 20-90 vision, walks in, robs, shoots, but only succeeds in puncturing a lung; the clerk recovers fully. What precisely is the difference? To the two clerks, quite a lot; but in terms of the nature of the crime, the intent, the callous disregard of life? If we execute 'A' and not 'B', aren't we discriminating against people with good eyes? Aren't we exacting revenge, purely and simply?

Let's get a little more obscure. Four drivers all start out on the roads, and all four are involved in a fatal crash in which they survive but the other driver doesn't. The drivers differ as follows:

A: "I'm going to drive until I see Jones coming the other way, and then I'm going to ram him head-on and kill the sonofabitch."

B: "Don't worry about me, I've only had six drinks, I can do it!"

C: "Yeah, I know that tire is completely bald; I'll get around to it one of these days."

D: "Driving is a breeze; once you get going, you just take your hands off the wheel, lean back, and let God steer! If something happens, it's His will."

Under existing laws, only 'A' would have any chance at the death penalty. The rest would all be held to manslaughter, and in the case of 'C' it would probably be held involuntary at that. (Maybe 'B' also, especially if he agreed to a rehab program.) And yet all four evidence an utter disregard for human life. Is there really any difference?

I am suggesting that the real purpose in punishment, capital or otherwise, and in rehabilitative therapy ought to be to instill the respect for life that is essential if any society is to prosper. In the case of capital punishment, obviously we would be striving to instill the respect in others, by example. And, if this really is to be our purpose - as I believe it ought - then I suggest that crimes which have the potential to take a life should be taken as 'capital' crimes whether or not a life is actually taken.

There is a slight amount of precedent for something along these lines. Probably the most famous example, at least 'way out West here, is Caryl Chessman, a rapist and technical kidnapper who never killed anyone. His capital sentence came under the then-in-force "Little Lindbergh" law which made kidnapping itself a capital crime, the law of course being an outgrowth of the kidnap/murder of Charles Lindbergh's infant son many years before. In Chessman's case, he was found to have been the cause of one victim's complete mental and emotional collapse; her prognosis for any significant recovery was held to be nonexistent. The defense tried to prove that she was wholly unstable to begin with, and that even if Chessman's rape pushed her over the brink, he could hardly have foreseen such an event. This defense did not prevail, and Chessman was eventually gassed. Other cases exist of capital sentences being meted out to criminals whose actions were ruled the proximate - not the actual - causes of death, e.g. where in the course of an armed robbery a victim suffers a fatal heart attack. And there is current talk - how serious I don't know - of fixing the laws in New York to allow cases such as the recent one where a group of gang members assaulted and chased a young man into the street, where he was hit and killed by a car.

Or how about a current case in San Diego - this one won't be a capital matter, but letters to the editor have suggested it should be - involving a teen who threw a chunk of concrete off a freeway bridge; it went through the roof of a car below, striking the driver and rendering him incapacitated for life (brain damage, paralysis).

Considering the wreckage they leave in their wake, which of these crimes or negligent acts is not appropriately a capital offense?

Many of us who care about matters political are suddenly very, very frightened; we are scared to death about the possibilities of the major leadership crisis that has just enveloped Washington. It's too bad the press didn't have more sense; they should have withheld the news of Carroll Righter's death until Reagan left office.

DIPLOMACY WORLD 50, a big spectacular celebration of achieving the milestone its number represents, has just been released. Eighty pages. Numerous articles and filler items by a plethora of authors, from the new-to-the-hobby to the Grand Old Timers. (I am not included; I was asked to contribute but chose to pass.) This issue has been hyped so much over the past months that I was expecting a colossal flop; nothing could match the promise of all that advertising.

Well, it's here, and guess what? To my utter astonishment, it comes close! It could have been better, but, being realistic and fair, I doubt it could have been very much better.

Highlights - well, I don't intend to use nine pages, so I'll just pick a few gems, with the codicil that there are others: Fred Davis' beautifully sensitive piece on humanism and tolerance; Garret Schenck's proposals for getting to England for DipCon if you're poor; Bruce Linsey's analysis of the Hobby's Best 'Zines; Mark Berch's "You Be The GM" feature; Doug Beyerlein's predictions for the hobby's future....

Weaknesses - not many, actually. Rod Walker's seven-page novel excerpt is a fine piece of writing, but strikes me as completely out of place here. Larry Peery's opening editorial, overwritten as usual (Bruce Geryk is like an AIDS epidemic? Come on!), is so thoroughly negative in tone that it ought to be pushed well back in the issue so as not to scare off the new people.

Disasters - just one. In company with all the other articles and essays offered - the weakest among them is pleasant at least - the travesty by Robert Sacks, in which a worthy subject is taken, garbed in competent writing, and then peppered with Sacks' customary false data and self-serving misconstructions, is a gross disservice to the readership. Sound editing would have thrown this rubbish out the window without another thought.

Okay. Now, if you look at that on a space-used basis, I've offered two negative paragraphs against one positive. So I don't like two-thirds of the issue, right? WRONG! In fact, allowing that I do like Rod's writing, I am left with at most four pages out of eighty that I object to - and that's keeping in mind that Larry put DW together without specifically catering to me! That, in my view, is a spectacular success. Remember (if you knew) that I used to edit that thing; I know how tough it is to edit a journal of that sort, catering for such a broad spectrum. Larry has, with this issue, achieved the impossible; he's done it better than I could have!

Larry Peery is at P.O. Box 8416, San Diego, CA 92102. Subscriptions go for \$15 a year (four issues), or \$4 the copy.

There seems to have been a squib of confusion engendered concerning the previous issue - you know, the one dated April 1, with Grendel's nose looped around the digit? - and on reflection I can see why. That last page, which ostensibly clarified everything, was not as neatly phrased as I might have made it.

Principally, a number of you have asked whether COSTA is folding, or scaling down, or what? Well, I think you have your answer in your hands, but I do apologize for the confusion. Another commentator noted that if my comments on John Walker were a joke, they were in very poor taste. I agree completely, and dearly wish I were able to plead guilty to the charge, but unfortunately I was telling the truth.

I did, however, tell one lie. I told you that the articles by named authors were in fact by those people. In the case of the one by Bruce Geryk, that was not the case; I wrote it based on ideas he expressed in letters to me and others, and incorporating comments made here and there by his two house-niggers Zarse and Clark. And of course I tossed in a bit or two of my own, purely because I love the little fella so much.

One of the subjects that we old-timers in this hobby used to like to speculate about is, how many different times has postal Diplomacy been "invented," completely independently and without knowledge of other efforts. To date we know of three: My own effort in 1962, Dr. Boardman's true beginning in 1963, and Eric Just's in c.1966. Now, quite out of the blue, I've come across what appears to be the fourth.

It's based in the offices of Marathon Oil Co. in Denver, and is populated mainly by engineers and executives of that company. But there are also players in San Francisco and San Diego, and it is via the latter that I learned of the enterprise. In addition, it is this San Diego connection that makes this not quite a true "invention."

The San Diego player is one Bill Cline, and I've known him before. His older brother is Bob Cline (Cline 9-Man Variant?), but Bill was never involved in the postal hobby before and probably knew that it had once existed only to the extent of the odd comment passed at an in-person game, in several of which he did participate. This was twenty or so years ago, and Bill has been off living his own life ever since. But somewhere around the middle of last year, he and his friend Dave Palmer (Marathon) and a few others decided to put on a game through the posts; it's now into 1905, is a six-person game (Italy out) with Dave playing and GMing - and I've just come in to take over France. As far as I can tell, Bill just looked me up in the 'phone book one day to see if I was still interested in the game, and since then Dave has sent me copies of all the move sheets (there's no "magazine") to date.

Okay - so this isn't a true "invention" of postal play. But it's close enough, and brings up once again that old speculation: Just how many mini-hobbies are there out there? Some years ago I suggested that, though such things might once have existed, it was unlikely that there would be more in the future, simply because the inclusion of the postal flyer in the game acts pretty well precluded it. But who knows?

Tangentially, I've drifted off into another train of thought. COSTA has gone through a hell of a lot of subbers over the years, and for reasons of curious mental process not yet altogether clear, I was trying the other day to figure out just how many U.S. States and Canadian Provinces I have had represented at one time or another. And to the best of my ability I've determined that I am still missing four States and one Province: Montana, Delaware, South Dakota, Wyoming, and Newfoundland.

I don't suppose anyone in the U.K. has run up any stats on how many of the Counties have been represented over the years? Hell, I don't even know how many there are - fifty-some-odd, I think Piggott told me. Just about as many, then, as California counties. Well, then, that shouldn't be too tough...anybody want to try it?

Two issues ago I published a quiz ("The World's Simplest Quiz") consisting in what were supposed to be 'obvious' questions. Last issue I published a set of answers, but I wouldn't advise going on 'Jeopardy' armed with those!

Now I'll give you the real answers - except for one. That's because in the publication from which I got this, the questions were misnumbered (there were two Question #8s), and in listing the answers the duplication was not noticed, so the answer to one of the questions numbered 8 was not provided, and I've been unable to get an accurate answer on my own.

1. The Hundred Years' War lasted for 116 years.
2. Because Russia was using a different calendar at the time, the October Revolution began on November 7.
3. Panama hats are made in Ecuador.
4. Peruvian Balsam is an herb obtained from the Balaam Indians of El Salvador.
5. The bird Puffinus puffin is commonly (?) known as the Manx shearwater. The birds commonly called puffins belong to genus Fratercula or genus Lunda. The latter is presumably connected with the Lundy Islands, on which the puffins live.
6. Catgut is made from the sheep.
7. Mole-skin trousers are made of cotton. It's a particularly thick weave which has been nicknamed mole-skin.
8. Chinese gooseberries are grown in New Zealand.
9. How many Kings of France were named Louis? Now this is the one I don't have an answer for. There are eighteen numbered, of course, and the nature of this quiz indicates that the answer could be almost any other number, but definitely not 18! The best I can come up with is twenty, which takes the basic 18 and adds in Louis Philippe (the last King of France) and a son of Charlemagne who ruled territory which was then part of the Empire but which is not in modern France.
10. The Canary Islands are named for a breed of dog that is native to them. The islands' Latin name is Canariae Insulae - Island of Dogs.
11. King George VI's first name (of many) was Albert, but he chose not to use it out of respect for Queen Victoria's wish that no future King be named Albert.
12. Purple finches are crimson. But this one at least is understandable; I've seen purple finches, our zoo has a flock, and in the shade under the foliage they look purple to me too! (In bright light, however, they are definitely crimson - actually, just plain red is closer.)
13. "A Midsummer Night's Dream" takes place in the Spring, from April 29 to May 1. Poetically, Spring has also been called "Summer's Eve," and Shakespeare merely expanded on that.
14. The true ('natural') camel's hair brush is made from the hair of the squirrel. Of course there's obviously only one way to get this material, so these days most of them are synthetic.
15. And finally, how long did the Thirty Years' War last? Well, good grief! How obvious can you get? Thirty years, of course, from 1618-1648.

Somebody somewhere obviously had some fun filling out a magazine subscription card as a joke, and a computer operator took it literally, because I saw a copy of Vanity Fair come through the post office today addressed exactly as follows:

Doan Botherme  
86 IT  
San Diego, CA 92199

Which brings me to another post office comment. In San Diego at least, if the Postmaster were to retire tomorrow and for some reason it was decided to elect her successor by employee secret ballot, I know exactly who would win that election: Corazon Aquino.

Civil service in general, and the Post Office in particular, are well-known for their disproportionate percentages of minorities, mainly in semi-skilled or unskilled jobs (executive positions being based a great deal more on actual qualifications). Thus, blacks and Hispanics show up in postal uniforms far in excess of their actual numbers in the general population. As a blatant for instance, I have, in my twenty years, met exactly five Caucasian custodians - and three of those were the Chief Superintendent and his two immediate assistants.

But whereas with most minorities the ratios are merely skewed, in the case of Filipinos the ratio shoots right off the charts. It is quite literally Little Manila in certain areas of the work floor. Demographically, Filipinos comprise something like 5% of San Diego's population, but they make up fully 22% of the postal force.

Why? Well, we have a special relationship with the Philippines owing to our having owned the place until 1946; residual treaties, etc., make it extremely easy for Filipinos to come here to live, and they are free to join our Navy if they so choose. And they do, in huge numbers; it's a good way to earn some money and get an entrée to the U.S. Of course they often settle around our big naval bases - San Diego, Seattle and Long Beach. (Not so much San Francisco; costs of living are too high there.)

I'm not suggesting I object; all I care about is eagerness and competence, and it would appear that the Filipino contingent makes up with an excess of the former what they seem to lack in the latter. But I am amazed; I had no idea until recently just what a huge contingent existed. The ultimate, I guess, is that the post office cafeteria now serves on occasion Pork Adobo Burritos. Ghod!!!

COSTAGUANA wishes to start a new game at this time. I believe we have three already, so four more are wanted. I have no preference whether we play regular Dip or Gunboat, so if you'd care to apply, please specify which you'd prefer (or 'either'). Also, include a country preference list. No fee, just keep your sub or trade up.

Fair warning - if this game does not fill in the next two issues, and I am not advertising outside, then I'm going to cancel the opening and close down COSTA altogether. This isn't a threat, it's just that without games (and it won't be long), there's no need.

My other 'zine, which doesn't really have a title but does have a masthead consisting in several bars of music which change every issue, is roaring along quite nicely, thank you. (For bibliographic purposes, Eoghan Barry has dubbed the thing "Two Bars in C-Sharp," which is what I plan to use even though there have never been bars in C-Sharp, and never will be.) It carries games of Railway Rivals and one section of Empire Builder; the latter is just starting and we could very much use a standby player or two. Also, plenty of Rivala openings, any map you wish. Cost of the 'zine is 25c per copy; it's very small and there is no chat, though we do have some discussions about Rivals going.



GAME 1986Arb32 - 'Gunboat' ('Schuyler Colfax') - Fall 1910

All draws/concessions were squelched.

ENGLAND: f stp sc h. a bel-bur. a ruh s mun. a bur-mar. a ber s mun. a mun h. a pru-war. a lon-nwy. f wes s tyn-tun. f mid-por. f nth c lon-nwy. f bal s ber. f lyo-spa eo. f tyn-tun.  
 ITALY: a tus s rom. a rom s ENG tyn-nap. f tun-ion. f pie s tus.  
 RUSSIA: a mos s war. a war s mos.  
 TURKEY: a ukr s RUS war. a ven-tus. a apu s nap-rom. a boh s eil. a sil s tye-mun. a tyo-mun. f aeg s adr-ion. f nap-rom. f adr-ion. f sev h. f lon-nap.

Retreat: Ita f tun to n.af or off. Ita a rom squished.

Centres:

E: 18: lon, lvp, edi, nwy, den, swe, stp, bel, hol, ber, kie, mun, per, bre, mar, spa, por, tun. Build four and WINS!  
 I: 0: OUT.  
 R: 2: mos, war. Even.  
 T: 14: con, smy, ank, sev, bul, gre, ser, rum, bud, tri, vie, ven, rom, nap. Build three.

Nothing like fireworks at the finish, eh? Gee, I hadn't really expected this, and I'm a little caught off guard....

ENGLAND TO THE CONQUERED: Surprise! I only regret I couldn't discuss this final move with Italy. I imagine him telling me to 'go for it' as the ultimate blow to the much-hated Turk. Without attacking Italy, I feel strongly the results would have been the same...but wouldn't have come about until Christmas! Since according to the rules I now control Europe, I give the noble Italian player complete control of all his homeland plus all of Turkey's homeland (such as it is). Thanks, all, and I look forward to identities and game-ending statements.

JAMUL: How generous of you - can Turkey keep anything? Albania? Anyway, game-end statements are more than welcome - strongly wanted, even - and will be printed next time if sent. As to identities, well, why don't we just run down the game right now:

Austria, the world-famous 'Suzanne' of legend, song, and prees of (ahem) astronomical proportions, was played by MARK WEIDMARK.

England, guided all the way to a very convincing win that even the GM didn't see coming (which may say something for the GM), is known to his admiring public as DOUG BROWN.

France, struggling to hold his head above water and carrying it off for quite a bit longer than I thought he would, is the ultra-reliable DAN GORHAM.

Germany - poor Germany, stuck with two complete losers in a row; first JEFF ZARSE, then ELMER HINTON. (In fairness, Elmer did a decent job here.)

Italy, the poor man who was the butt of all those slightly risqué jokes and one-liners, actually happens to be MELINDA HOLLEY.

Russia started under the control of ROBERT O'DONNELL, who is a good player who got unlucky here. And when Bob was forced to leave the hobby, control passed to a very unlikely point; northern London. Not that his units ever did much, but it was nice having PETER SULLIVAN around.

Turkey, the country I expected to see win this until about 1908, and who put an immense amount of care into playing a meticulous and solid game but just couldn't make the one big 'dent' he needed, was JEFF HOFFMAN.

You know, when you think about it, that's really a remarkable game history in terms of reliability of players. Over two years, through all of my personal mishaps, and only one messy player problem. (Russia wasn't messy, Bob handled things in an admirable fashion.)

So now you all know each other, let's have a party! Well...maybe we settle for some nice polite written statements, and I'll toss in a supply centre chart and full wrap-up for submission to the statistics people (Fred Hyatt and Dave McCrumb), and then we'll all watch Vice-President Schuyler Colfax return to the oblivion from which I saved him.

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#### GAME 1986-0 - The Convoluted Cassowary - THE END

This game ended two issues ago as a draw, F/T.

Magazine: COSTAGUANA

GM: Conrad von Metzke (to WO7), Bruce Linsey (SO8), Conrad von Metzke

AUSTRIA: Evans Givan

ENGLAND: Robert O'Donnell (ree SO7), Peter Sullivan

FRANCE: Larry Botimer (DREW FO8)

GERMANY: Michael Pustilnik

ITALY: Robert Greier, Jr.

RUSSIA: J.Ron Brown (Calif.) (dro FO3), Peter Mateunas (dro WO7),  
Stephen Wilcox

TURKEY: Melinda Holley (DREW FO8)

Fall 1908 was not actually played.

	01	02	03	04	05	06	07
A	5	5	4	3	3	3	4
E	4	5	4	6	7	7	5
F	4	4	5	5	5	5	6
G	5	5	6	6	4	4	5
I	4	4	4	3	4	4	4
R	6	5	5	3	4	4	3
T	4	5	6	8	7	7	7

From the GM's perspective, this was a rather strange game in that nothing ever really happened. It's almost like when two football teams struggle in the mud to a scoreless tie; nobody ever seemed to develop any momentum, or even sense of direction. Even Russia was viable at the end, after two player changes!

Evans sums it all up for me very well with his end-game note:

"Thanks for the game."

Apart from that, the only actual end-gams statement submitted comes from the last of the two Englands - Peter Sullivan:

"Well, I didn't expect the game to finish this early - I could've sworn I voted against, but no, not according to my records. My time in this game was mainly concerned with trying to create a stable position after the drop-out. My 'strategy,' such as it was, was an alliance with Michael Pustilnik's Germany on the (not unreasonable) grounds that he was the only one to write. So ends my first American Dip game - do I get a rating now?"

Conrad again - that wasn't a drop-out, that was an orderly resignation (such technicalities once made a difference in ratings).

And I believe you do not get a rating for this one. I'm really not up on these things, having no interest in them (just as well, too, you should see where I am!), but I believe that a replacement player only gets a mention in the ratings if he/she wins or draws, not otherwise. This is why, e.g., a "ratings-player" like Stephen Wilcox is perfectly willing to take on an abandoned position here and there; doing so won't harm his rating, and lets him keep his negotiating skills in fine tune.

But stand by; we'll get a rating for you somewhere....

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71 72 73 74 75 76 77 78 79 80 81 82 83 84 85 86 87 88 89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 100

GAME 1985HE - The Delirious Dik-Dik - THE END

In the statistics that follow, I confess to being unable to find full data for 1901, with the result that the centre chart is necessarily incomplete for that year. All other information is correct.

**Magazine: COSTAGUANA**

**Game Masters:** Conrad von Matske (to FO9), Bruce Lineey (WO9), Conrad von Matske

AUSTRIA: John Walker (to SO2), Jake Walters (to SO3), John Walker (to WO2), Jake Walters (dro FO8), Fred Townsend (DREW S10)

ENGLAND: Simon Billingsgate (DREW 810)

FRANCE: Robert Aghsoun (DREW \$10)

GERMANY: Dan Gorham (OUT FO?)

ITALY: Paul Rauterberg (dro FO4), Pat Jenaen (dro WO9), Melinda Holley

RUSSIA: J. Ron Brown (Calif.) (drc FO6), Larry Botimer (out FO7)

**TURKEY:** Robert Anderson (dro FO4), c.d. (out WO4).

**For Italy, Melinda never actually played a season.**

The Austrian situation is extremely messy, and I must leave it to the ratingsmasters to sort it out. John Walker resigned temporarily and Jake took over; John then resumed, but had to resign temporarily again and Jake took it on once more. Then Jake dropped, and Fred took over; finally, John died before he could resume his position again. Jake had been playing with the understanding that he was just a stalking-horse, but Fred had no such information. Good luck, ratings people!

	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09
A	5	6	7	9	10	11	11	11	13
E		5	5	5	5	7	8	9	10
F	5	5	5	5	5	5	6	7	7
G	5	5	5	4	2	-			
I	4	4	4	4	4	4	6	6	4
R	4	6	6	7	6	5	3	1	-
T		3	2	-					

And as I've no end statements to print, I guess we'll just let this one wander off into the records....

My thanks to all, but a special nod to Jake and Fred for help with a very difficult situation.

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#### GAME 1985Mrb32 - 'Davy Crockett' ('Gunboat') - W.1909/S.1910

Oh, bemoan! This game is not going well any longer...and I didn't help much with my flip assurance about England. Well, let's just plod on, and maybe this time I can get some standby orders....

All draws and concessions were defeated. Austria built A Vie. England (there being no player) suffers A Lvn retreating off the board. And, though France had the decency to send moves, he didn't specify a build (and only ordered four units), so he plays one short....

AUSTRIA: a ber-mun. a tyo, a boh, s oil s ber-mun. s pie-tus. s ven e pie-tus. a vie-gal.

ENGLAND: No moves received. a stp, f's tyn, wes, tun, bal, bot, nth h.

FRANCE: a mar-pie. a bur s GER ruh-mun. f lyo s tue. f tus s ENG tyn.

GERMANY: a kie s mun. a mun s kie.

TURKEY: No moves received. a'e mos, lvn, ukr, apu; f's adr, eae, nsp, seg, ion, rom h.

Retreat: German A Mun to Ruh or off the board.

Proposals for ending the game: (1) A-E-F-T, (2) Everybody. Votes with Fall orders please.

FRANCE TO SWITZERLAND: If Germany is not a survivor in this game, how come big bad Austria isn't into Holland by now? Vote DIAS. You A/T boys better stab each other or give it up!

VIENNA TO TURKEY: Now, ol' buddy, don't worry about giving Warsaw back to me just yet, the placement of our forces is important to keep up the pressure and win our final victory, which I see coming. We will be able to break through their lines shortly.

FRANCE TO ENGLAND: No more NMRs, big guy. Give Uncle Jamul contingency support orders at least!

JAMUL: No, we don't need any of those; what we do need is Uncle Jamul asking someone who is listening!

THE DEADLINE WILL BE JUNE 6.

GAME 1987HL - The Lopsided Lion - Spring 1903

AUSTRIA (Melinda Holley): a bud-gal. a ser s rum. a sil s bud-gal.  
a rum s bud-gal. s vie s bud-gal. f gre s ITA bul.  
 ENGLAND (David Pierce): a lvp-wal. f eng-iri. f lon s lvp-wal.  
 FRANCE (Michael Pustilnik): a bel s pic-bur. a spa-por. a pic-bur.  
 f iri-mid. f wal-iri.  
 GERMANY (Ran Ben-Israel): a den s RUS swe. a ruh-mun. a ber-kie.  
 f hol-nth. f nwg s hol-nth.  
 ITALY (Robert Acheson): a bul s con. a tyo-pie. f rom-tyu. f nap-  
 ion. f oon h. f tun-wea.  
 RUSSIA (Doug Baker): a gal-rum. a ukr s gal-rum. a mos-war. f sev  
 s gal-rum. f nwy s swe. f swe s nwy.  
 TURKEY (Dan Gorham): a smy-con. f bla-rum.

Retreats: Well, the French F Wales doesn't seem to have much of an option, so I'm putting it away now. The Austrian A Rumania may go back to Budapest or off the board; Fall moves may be conditional.

Deadline for Fall moves: June 6, 1988.

LONDON TO PARIS: Sorry, I got a better offer.

JAMUL: Hey, I know; let's turn this into a prese game!

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Now I have got to confess to a real temptation to keep on going (I have plenty of things I could use to do that) and make this into another "normal" issue of old, 24 pages or so, and then I could go do a fancy cover....

But you know what? I really do not want to. Except for this little bit right here, this issue was finished on May 10 - one day after deadline. I haven't managed that in over a year! And it feels very, very good to be punctual....

I think I'll finish off with a few brief comments about the Democratic Vice-Presidential possibilities, and then go to the printer. Two months or so to go, and already the speculations are so confused and mixed-around as ever. (Ever notice that only during the pre-convention phase is the Vice-Presidency ever of any real importance?) One thought that has come up, and it intrigues me very much, is naming Sen. Nunn the Veep candidate and Secretart of Defense. Nunn is too much of a hawk for my taste, but he could certainly be worse (Haig); but there is one built-in time bomb to that arrangement: If ever there is a major policy split and Dukakis decides to fire his Secretary, he would still have the man very much in the government and in a position to do all kinds of things that might embarrass the boss.

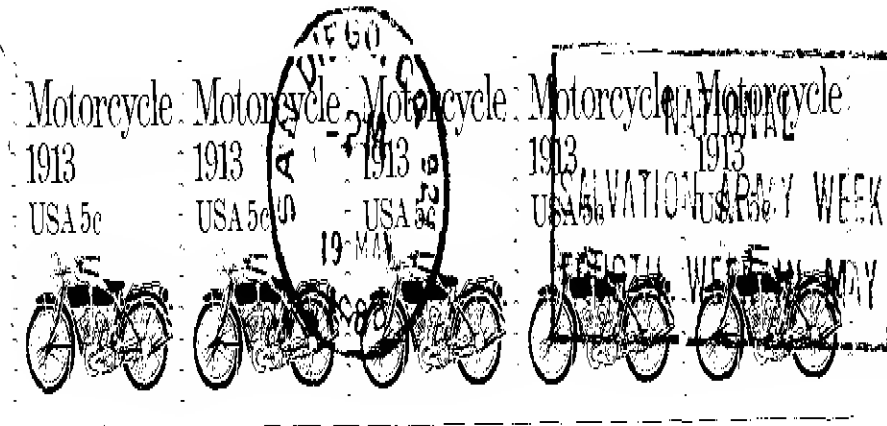
Still, for ticket-balancing purposes it seems a spiffy idea, so I'm inclined to favor something rather similar, if not quite as powerful: Sen. Gore. Lots of weak spots, but none that devastating that it can't be lived with - surely nothing as horrendous as George Bush's biggest problem, which is himself.

Definitely not Jesse. If you want a Southern black, pick one with some real substance to back up the ideals. Has anybody suggested Corette King?

Know. Ta....

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